

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0011] In order for the seaming operation to ensure a good quality connection between the pressure container and the metal lid, the flange should terminate in a thickened annular rim showing on one or both sides of the flange ending. The height of the annular thickened rim should vary from 1.1 to 2.0 ~~of~~times the flange thickness. --

Please replace paragraphs [0020-22] with the following amended paragraphs:

-- [0020] FIG. 2 shows an enlarged rim 5 of the flange 3 of the preform 1 which is deviated from the cylindrical neck at an angle of  $180^\circ - \gamma$ , where  $\gamma$  lies within a range of  $60^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ . The flange 3 terminates in an annular thickened rim 5a on both its sides. The height h of the thickened rim 5a varies from 1.1 to 2.0 ~~of~~times the flange thickness g1.

[0021] FIG. 3 shows an enlarged rim 5 of the flange 3 of the preform 1 which is deviated from the cylindrical neck at an angle of  $180^\circ - \gamma$ , where  $\gamma$  lies within a range of  $60^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ . The flange 3 terminates in a one-sided annular thickened rim 5b on the top of it. The height h of the thickened rim 5b varies from 1.1 to 2.0 ~~of~~times the flange thickness g1.

[0022] FIG. 4 shows an enlarged rim 5 of the flange 3 of the preform 1 which is deviated from the cylindrical neck at an angle of  $180^\circ - \gamma$ , where  $\gamma$  lies within a range of  $60^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ . The flange 3 terminates in a one-sided annular thickened rim 5c underneath it. The height h of the thickened rim 5c varies from 1.1 to 2.0 ~~of~~times the flange thickness g1. --